

**GOVERNOR NED RAY MCWHERTER
TENNESSEE 2000/21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM
EDUCATION TOUR
1990-1991 [1993]**

RECORD GROUP 282

Processed by:

Ted Guillaum
Archival Technical Services

Date Completed: October 4, 2001
Vault Location: I-D-2v

MICROFILM ONLY

INTRODUCTION

Record Group 282, Governor Ned Ray McWherter, Tennessee 2000/21st Century Classroom Education Tour, 1990-1991 [1993], contains seven cubic feet of documents representing the official record of Governor McWherter's education and tax reform initiatives. This record group contains documents that were created by the Governor's Planning Office. There are no restrictions on the use of these records. These records relate directly to the *Governor Ned Ray McWherter Papers, 1987-1995*, (GP 54) where further information may be found.

This group of records was transferred to the Tennessee State Library and Archives in 1995 separate from the official papers of the governor but along with other records from the now defunct Planning Library. These records were used by the governor's planning staff, primarily Ms. Carol White, to schedule and implement his education improvement tour of 1990-1991. The records were found in good condition with 95% in original order.

This record group was microfilmed and the originals disposed of according to the Tennessee State RDA, except for the two released video tapes that were retained and are housed in the TSLA Vault. This is a microfilm only collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Governor Ned Ray McWherter served two consecutive terms as governor from 1987 until 1995. In 1990 and 1991 Governor McWherter initiated the Tennessee 2000/21st Century Classroom Education Tour. This was a program that attempted to improve education through increased funding and included a proposal for a personal income tax to fund it. These records give an insight into the extent of organization and effort put forth by the administration to gain public support for his programs. These records were maintained by Ms. Carol White who worked with Mr. Jim Hall in the State Planning Office of the McWherter Administration. The education tour included personal visits to individual schools and county officials by the governor and his cabinet members. Public opinion was encouraged through the use of post cards and other materials dispersed at public meetings. A large portion of this collection, 4 ½ cubic feet, includes letters from the public and responses from the administration concerning the income tax proposal and the education improvement plan. While the income tax portion of the plan failed, other portions of the improved education plan were implemented, such as the Better Education Program (BEP). The relevance of this collection may lie in the correlation to the income tax proposal of Governor McWherter and a similar personal income tax proposal some 10 years later by Governor Don Sundquist. A comparison of changing personal opinion could be made from a study of the correspondence of the two administrations.

The bulk of these records were created in 1990 through 1991 while a small amount of material from 1992 and 1993 will be found. The records include some federal government background materials pertaining to federal education goals and six files relating to Tennessee's "Better Education Program (BEP)." The BEP was a new formula of school funding that was implemented in an attempt to make funding equitable statewide. The organizational files for Tennessee 2000 and 21st Century Classroom include correspondence, press releases, speeches, goals, handbooks, meeting schedules, hotel information, and reports. Correspondence comprises more than half of this collection. Most of it reflects opinions related to educational needs and the personal income tax proposal. For the tour, the state was divided into eight districts with records filed by district. The eight districts were: Davidson, East Tennessee, First Tennessee, Hamilton, Knox, Northwest, Shelby, South Central, Southeast, Southwest, and Upper Cumberland. Original order was maintained wherever possible during processing. The original size of the collection was about 16 cubic feet. Four cubic feet of duplicate material was discarded. The finished size of the collection is seven cubic feet of documents that have been microfilmed and the original documents disposed of.

CONTAINER LIST

Federal Government Background Materials:

1. America 2000--Sourcebook, 1991
2. Report--National Education Goals, 1991

Basic Education Program (BEP):

1. Media Briefing by Commissioner Charles E. Smith, Nov. 26, 1991
2. Education Improvement Act of 1991, May 30, 1991
3. Education Improvement Act, 1992
4. Proposed Funding, 1992-1993
5. Proposed Funding for Basic Education Program, 139 System Data, 1992-1993
6. Questions and answers relating to the improved BEP & The Education Act

21st Century Classroom:

1. Press Release--"TN 2000 Chairpersons"
2. Press Release--"TN 2000 to Support State, National Reform Goals"
3. Education Improvement Act 1992 Summary also "Highlights"
4. Method of Selection for School Boards & School Superintendents
5. Tax Reform Act of 1992--Overview
6. Speech-- Address to Joint Convention of Special Session, Jan. 14, 1992
7. Speech--Address to Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, Jan. 7, 1992
8. Speech--West Tennessee Officials, January 1992
9. Goals & Objectives of 21st Century Challenge Plan, February 1990
10. Steps Toward Excellence, TN's Progress Report, 1991
11. Organizer's Packet
12. Cabinet Members Handbook, 21st Century Classroom
13. 21st Century Schools ABC, 1992 (Slide presentation handout)
14. Video Tape--"Preparing for the 21st Century", Feb. 21, 1990
[Transferred to Vault Location: I-D-2v]
15. Video Tape--"Freedom to Learn-Freedom to Teach" Version II, Mar. 5, 1990
[Transferred to Vault Location: I-D-2v]
16. Logo--Ring the Bell
17. Notes--School Trips, n.d.
18. Education & Tax Reform Visits, 1990 & 1991
19. Parent Meetings, May 8, 1990
20. Schedules--Cabinet visits to counties, 1992
21. Cabinet Communication, Community Visits, 1991
22. Report on Tennessee 2000 Project, n.d.
23. Cabinet Visits--Master Schedule, 1991
24. Cabinet Member Tour Preferences, 1991-1992
25. Memos--To Jim Hall, 1990 & 1992
26. Clipping--Small Schools Lawsuit, 1992

First Tennessee District:

1. Organizational Notebook
2. Legislative Mailings, 1990
3. Cabinet Schedules, 1990
4. May 2 Cabinet Meeting Schedules, 1990
5. May 2 Parent Meeting Schedules, 1990
6. Letters to Superintendents, April 6, 1990
7. Governor's Meeting Locations, 1990
8. Invitations from Schools, 1990
9. Addresses--Johnson & Montgomery Counties, 1990

South Central District:

1. Cabinet Schedules, School Visits, 1990
2. Cabinet Member Contacts, n.d.
3. Parent Meeting Schedule, May 8-9, 1990
4. Invitation Responses, April 23, 1990
5. Correspondence/Thank You Letters, 1990

Shelby District:

1. Parent Meeting Schedule, May 16, 1990
2. Invitations, 1990
3. Correspondence--Cabinet Members, 1990
4. Correspondence--Governor, 1990
5. Correspondence--Children's Thank You Letters, 1990

Report:

1. May Final Statistics, 1990

Fall Trips:

1. Commissioner's Suggestions for Fall Trips, 1990
2. Site Notes, n.d.
3. Fall Notes-Memos, 1990

Northwest District:

1. Map of District, n.d.
2. Data on Schools in District, n.d.
3. Proposed 2 Day Schedule for Governor & Staff, n.d.

East Tennessee District:

1. Press Release
2. Agenda-Bearden Middle School, Sept. 20, 1990
3. Invitations to Legislators & Local Officials, 1990

Upper Cumberland:

1. Press Release
2. Agenda, 1990
3. Invitations to Legislators & Local Officials, 1990

Knox District:

1. Press Release
2. Agenda & Script, 1990
3. Letters to Legislators & Local Officials, 1990

Southeast District:

1. Press Release
2. Schedule for Governor, Sept. 27, 1990
3. Agenda--Cleveland High School, Sept. 27, 1990
4. Letters to Legislators, 1990

Southwest District:

1. Press Release
2. Lamar Alexander's Arrangements, Sept. 11, 1990
3. Commissioner's Itinerary, June 1987
4. Invitations to Legislators, 1990
5. List--School Invitations, n.d.
6. Correspondence--Thank You Letters, 1990

Northwest District:

1. Press Release
2. Agenda & Script, Oct. 1, 1990
3. Invitations to Legislators, 1990

Davidson District:

1. Agenda & Script, Oct. 4, 1990
2. Invitations to Legislators, Sept. 1990

Hotels:

1. Jackson--Garden Plaza, Sept. 5-6, 1990
2. Oak Ridge--Garden Plaza, Sept. 12-13, 1990
3. Cookeville--Holiday Inn, Sept. 18-19, 1990
4. Knoxville--Holiday Inn, Sept. 19-20, 1990
5. Cleveland--Holiday Inn, Sept. 27, 1990
6. Johnson City--Garden Plaza, May 1-2, 1990
7. South Central, Columbia Holiday Inn, May 9, 1990
8. Memphis--Garden Plaza, May 15-16, 1990
9. Chattanooga--Chattanooga Choo Choo, May 20-21, 1990
10. Cooper Hotel Group, 1990

Tax Summary:

1. Decreased & Increased Tax Burdens, n.d.

Press Packets:

1. Scrapbook Materials, 1990
2. Press, 1990
3. News Clips, 1990

Commissioner Reports:

1. First Tennessee, 1990
2. Hamilton County, 1990
3. Shelby County, 1990
4. South Central, 1990

General Correspondence

1. Education/Community Leader Thank You Letters, July 1990
2. Correspondence--Miscellaneous, 1990
3. Correspondence--Postcard Responses, 1990
4. Correspondence--Thank You Letters, 1990
5. Correspondence--Chattanooga/Hamilton County, 1990
6. Correspondence--Invitations to Legislators-Community Visits, Sept. 1990
7. Correspondence--Improving Education Responses, 1990
8. Correspondence--Improving Education Responses, 1990
9. Correspondence--Carol White, 1990-1991
10. Correspondence--Invitations to Visit Schools, 1990
11. Correspondence--21st Century Classroom Responses, June 1990
12. Correspondence--21st Century Community Visit Thank You Letters, 1990

Governor's Correspondence--re. Income Tax Proposal, School Funding:

1. Davidson, 1990-1991
2. East Tennessee, 1990-1991
3. First Tennessee, 1990-1991
4. Hamilton, 1990-1991
5. Knox, 1990-1991
6. Northwest, 1990-1991
7. Shelby, 1990-1991
8. South Central, 1990-1991
9. Southeast, 1990-1991
10. Southwest, 1990-1991
11. Upper Cumberland, 1990-1991